

# Finance committee Minutes

## March 8<sup>th</sup> 2012

The minutes were distributed at 7:00PM and the meeting was called to order with Mr. David Herrick presiding, Mr. Bill Hattendorf, Ms. Pat Mielke, Mr. Burt Imberman and Mrs. Prudence Spaulding present. Mr. Michael Skorput and Mr. Nat Yohalem were guests.

The minutes for February 23<sup>rd</sup> were approved as read, with Ms. Mielke 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Hattendorf 2<sup>nd</sup> and passed unanimously.

Mr. Herrick shared the mail with the group, department heads were asked to meet with Mr. Yohalem on March 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:00AM and there was a notice from the Associations of Finance Committees inviting members to an informational meeting in Hadley.

There was a request to transfer \$987.50 from the Reserve Fund to the Hatchery Road Loan Account [80750.12], these funds were needed because there had been a miscalculation on the FY 12 Loan Payment. When questioned, Mr. Skorput stated that this will be the second to last payment on this loan which will be completed September 2013. Mrs. Spaulding 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Imberman 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

Group Insurance [90914.70] (\$107,327) now requesting {\$108,800}, this insurance covers medical and dental for the town employees. Mr. Skorput stated that he always includes one extra family and dental plan in case one of the uncovered employees chooses to take the insurance. Mrs. Spaulding asked what the split was and Ms. Mielke stated that as of July 1st the employees will pay 25% and the town will pay 75% of the cost. These rates are now "in Line" with other towns. Ms. Mielke 1<sup>st</sup>, Mrs. Spaulding 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

Medicare [90917.00] (\$9,500) now requesting {\$9,700}. Ms. Mielke explained that 1.45% is taken from every employee's salary and the town contributes 1.45%, Mrs. Spaulding 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Hattendorf 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

Mental Health [70523.00] (\$200) level funded {\$200} in an attached letter it was noted that 17 of New Marlborough residents used the services of the Brien Center for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services in Pittsfield. Mrs. Spaulding 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Hattendorf 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

Reserve Fund [95781.00] (\$50,000) level funded {\$50,000} Mr. Imberman asked if this was enough, and Mr. Skorput stated that it was. Ms. Mielke 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Hattendorf 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

Finance Committee Expenses [10133.00] (\$500) level funded {\$500} Ms. Mielke 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Hattendorf 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

**Umpachene Falls Park** [50650.00] (\$3,800) level funded {\$3,800} Ms. Mielke 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Imberman 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

**Constable's Salary** 60211.00] (\$500) level funded {\$500} Mr. Hattendorf asked for information about this position. Mr. Herrick explained that the constable was required to be present at all the elections and town meetings and had to post the warrants in all of the towns. Ms. Mielke 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Imberman 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

**Constable's Expenses** [60211.01] (\$95) level funded {\$95} Ms. Mielke 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Imberman 2<sup>nd</sup> passed unanimously.

When questioned about the salary raises, Mr. Yohalem stated that he thought that the selectmen planned to discuss these on Monday 12th. Thus these budgets should come to the Finance Committee next Thursday March 15th. When further questioned about the school budget Mr. Yohalem stated that he understood that the school committee is expected to vote on their budget on March 15th.

Mr. Herrick stated that he understood that there were two items that will be presented to the voters outside 2 ½ the first being a highway truck for approximately \$195,000 to replace a 12 year old truck and a fire truck for \$600,000 which will replace a 20 year old fire truck. He also noted that the new truck would come stripped and then the equipment in the old truck will be transferred to the new truck. Mr. Hattendorf asked how many fire trucks the town had, and Mr. Herrick answered that there were three fire trucks, as well as a brush truck (which the town obtained "cheap") a rescue van and an "84" pick up that was donated by Mr. Peter Cookson when it was brand new! Ms. Mielke added that she will look for a 5-7 year loan for the highway truck and a 10-15 year loan for the fire truck.

Mr. Herrick added that part of the school budget might have to go outside 2 ½ too!

Mr. Yohalem also added that the Selectmen had turned down the request for \$1000 for Berkshire South, which the Finance Committee had approved, feeling that this would set a precedent encouraging other "worthy" organizations to request funds.

The next Finance Committee meeting will be held March 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40PM.

Respectfully submitted.

Prudence Spaulding, Secretary.